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Award

Class 777 OLE Monitoring

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080388

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f040

Published 5 December 2025, 7:30pm

Scope

Description

This procurement is for the provision of an Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) monitoring service for the Class 777 fleet. This service will encompass the selection of technology, design, and installation of monitoring equipment on the passenger trains, ongoing maintenance, operation of the system, and subscription charges to the relevant supplier for data and analysis.

The OLE monitoring service will provide the following key functionalities:

- Height and Stagger Detection: Automated monitoring of OLE height and stagger, crucial parameters for safe and efficient train operation.
- Acceleration-Based Alerts: Detection of rapid changes in OLE parameters, providing early warnings of potential issues.
- Visual Processing: Analysis of streamed forward-facing CCTV and PanCam footage to identify:
 - Balance weight positions on the OLE.
 - Presence of birds' nests on the OLE infrastructure.

- Vegetation encroachment impacting the OLE.

This comprehensive monitoring service will enable NR to proactively identify and address potential OLE defects, contributing to improved safety, reliability, and performance of the railway network.

Contract 1

Supplier

- MERSEYRAIL ELECTRICS 2002 LIMITED

Contract value

- £298,508 excluding VAT
- £358,210 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 14 December 2026
- 11 months, 24 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72300000 - Data services

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This award is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 under schedule 5 paragraph 5; competition is absent for technical reasons and NR's C&P Policy. The Rationale is as follows:

- the aim of the procurement is the creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance.
- competition is absent for technical reasons.
- the protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights, but only in the case of paragraphs.

MerseyRail, as the owner and lessor of the Class 777 fleet, is uniquely positioned to provide this OLE monitoring service. The rationale for a direct award is based on the following:

- **Existing Asset Knowledge and Access:** MerseyRail possesses in-depth knowledge of the Class 777 fleet and has established access to the trains for the necessary design and installation of the monitoring equipment. This eliminates the need for a separate procurement process to identify and contract with a third party for train access and modification.
- **Service Integration:** Awarding the entire service to MerseyRail ensures seamless integration of the technology selection, installation, maintenance, and data provision aspects. This streamlined approach minimizes potential interface issues and simplifies contract management.
- **Efficiency and Time Savings:** A direct award to MerseyRail leverages their existing relationship and knowledge, significantly reducing the time and resources required for a full competitive tender process. This allows for a faster implementation of the vital OLE monitoring capability.
- **Upgrade of Existing Equipment:** MerseyRail already has a previous generation of OLE monitoring equipment fitted to these trains, which can be upgraded to provide the latest technology.

By awarding this contract directly to MerseyRail, Network Rail can efficiently implement a well-established and effective OLE monitoring solution, leveraging the asset owner's unique position and existing service delivery capabilities.

Supplier

MERSEYRAIL ELECTRICS 2002 LIMITED

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Liverpool

L1 1JF

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Email: tdrost@merseyrail.org

Region: UKD72 - Liverpool

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNZN-9524-VCQJ

Waterloo General Office

London

SE1 8SW

United Kingdom

Email: valentine.onwuchekwa@networkrail.co.uk

Website: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/>

Region: UKI45 - Lambeth

Organisation type: Public authority - central government